

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A gland for use in a hemostasis valve assembly comprising;

a self-sealing, one piece gland having an inwardly facing surface, an outwardly facing surface located proximally from said inwardly facing surface, a first slit formed in said inwardly facing surface extending in a longitudinal direction toward but terminating before said outwardly facing surface, a second slit formed in said outwardly facing surface extending in said longitudinal direction toward but terminating before said inwardly facing surface in a plane offset from said first slit, and a third slit formed in a plane substantially parallel to at least one of said inwardly facing and outwardly facing surfaces extending laterally to connect said first slit with said second slit.
2. The gland of claim 1, wherein said third slit extends from a circumferential edge of said gland to a position beyond both of said first and said second slits.
3. The gland of claim 1, wherein said first slit is substantially parallel to said second slit.
4. The gland of claim 1, wherein said third slit is substantially perpendicular to at least one of said first and said second slits.
5. The gland of claim 1, wherein said third slit is substantially perpendicular to both of said first and said second slits.
6. The gland of claim 1, wherein said third slit extends from said first slit to said second slit without extending to a circumferential edge of said gland.
7. The gland of claim 1, wherein said third slit extends from a position between a circumferential edge of said gland and said first slit to a position between an opposite

circumferential edge of said gland and said second slit without extending to either of said circumferential edge and said opposite circumferential edge.

8. The glad of claim 1, wherein each of said first, second and third slits is defined by a first surface of material in abutting contact with a second surface of material.

9. A method of manufacturing a hemostasis valve gland, said method comprising the steps of:

cutting a lateral slit into an elastomeric material extending from a circumferential edge into said material;

cutting a first longitudinal slit into said material extending from a top surface of said material to said lateral slit;

cutting a second longitudinal slit into said material extending from a bottom surface of said material to said lateral slit thereby forming a complex slit through which a device may be advanced.

10. A method of manufacturing a hemostasis valve gland, said method comprising the steps of:

cutting, using a first cutting device, a lateral slit into an elastomeric material extending from a circumferential edge into said material;

cutting, using a second cutting device, a first longitudinal slit into said material extending from a top surface of said material toward said first cutting device;

terminating said cutting of said first longitudinal slit when said second cutting device contacts said first cutting device;

removing said second cutting device from said material; and

removing said first cutting device from said material.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising:

subsequent to said cutting of said first longitudinal slit and prior to said removing of said first cutting device, cutting a second longitudinal slit into said material extending from a bottom surface of said material; and

terminating said cutting of said second longitudinal slit when said first cutting device is contacted.

12. A method of manufacturing a hemostasis valve gland, said method comprising the steps of:

positioning an insert into a mold, wherein said insert comprises a first planar member extending in a longitudinal direction, a second planar member offset from said first planar member and extending in a direction substantially parallel to said longitudinal direction, and a third planar member extending in a direction substantially perpendicular to said longitudinal direction connecting said first and said second planar members;

pouring an elastomeric material into said mold; and

removing said insert from said elastomeric material.